**UNITED STATES SENATE**

This file contains results for election to the United States Senate from the beginnings of its election by popular vote through 2016, including special elections. States gradually shifted from election by state legislatures to popular vote with the Seventeenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution requiring election by popular vote after its ratification in 1913. Elections to the U.S. Senate are staggered with one-third of the 100 seats up for election every two years.

**RG Region**

The following eight regions are used in the dataset:

Africa

Asia

Western Europe

Eastern Europe

Latin America

North America

Caribbean

Oceania

**CTR\_N Country Name**

**CTR Country Code**

Country codes developed by the UN,

840 United States

See http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49.htm

**SPECIAL Special Election**

0 = Regular Election

1 = Special Election

Some states hold special elections (i.e. by-elections) for vacancies. The file may not include all special election results.

**YR1 Election Year (First Round)**

Most states elect senators by the single-member plurality method, so there is only one round. Georgia and Louisiana hold a runoff between the top two candidates if no candidate receives a majority. Since 2012, California and Washington State have utilized a two-round system. The first round effectively replaced the party primary and is open to all candidates, including multiple candidates with the same party affiliation, with the top two candidates moving on to the general election even if one obtains a majority in the first round. The second round candidates may be members of the same party.

**MN1 Election Month (First Round)**

**CST\_N Constituency Name**

In the United States, the states serve as constituencies. Each state elects two senators with elections staggered so that the regularly scheduled elections for each of the seats do not coincide. If a state needs to hold a special election (see SPECIAL) at the same time to fill a vacancy, the elections are separated with voters having one vote in each contest.

**CST Constituency Code**

The constituency codes correspond to FIPS codes for U.S. states.

See https://www.census.gov/geo/reference/ansi\_statetables.html

**MAG District Magnitude**

While all U.S. state have two senators, they are elected separately, so that each runs in the state as a single-member district. When a special election for one seat occurs simultaneously with a regular election for the other seat, the election is similar to a numbered post system with candidates running for a specific seat for either the remainder of a term or a complete term.

**PTY\_N Party Name**

The party name or affiliation. Some states permit candidates to designate their own label on the ballot regardless of whether the organization or party exists.

Candidates with no party affiliation are coded as independents.

Many states permit voters to write in the name of a candidate. Some allow or require candidates to register as write-in candidates in advance of the election, which results in their inclusion in the official results. These candidates are coded with their party affiliation first and then (write-in) after the party name. If they are unaffiliated with a party, they are coded as independent (write-in).

States often record votes for all write-in candidates (or candidates that did not registered as write-in candidates in advance of the election) as a group. In the official results, these are also often reported as “scattered” votes. Votes for candidates listed in other rows are excluded from total presented under CV1 for grouped write-in candidates.

**PTY\_A Party Abbreviation**

The party name or affiliation. Some states permit candidates to designate their own label on the ballot regardless of whether the organization or party exists.

Candidates with no party affiliation are coded as IND.

Many states permit voters to write in the name of a candidate. Some allow or require candidates to register as write-in candidates in advance of the election, which results in their inclusion in the official results. These candidates are coded with their party affiliation first and then -wi after the party name in more recent elections. If they are unaffiliated with a party, they are coded as I-wi.

States often record votes for all write-in candidates (or candidates that did not registered as write-in candidates in advance of the election) as a group. In the official results, these are also often reported as “scattered” votes. Both are coded as wi but the votes for candidates listed in other rows are excluded from total presented under CV1 for grouped write-in candidates.

**FUSION Fusion (Candidates with Multiple Ballot Lines)**

Connecticut, New York and South Carolina permit candidates to run on multiple party lines. If a candidate ran on multiple ballots lines, their name is coded here. Otherwise, coded as 0.

For candidates supported by multiple parties, the votes from each line need to be summed to calculate their total votes. Winners supported by multiple parties are coded as such only under the main party affiliation (see SEAT).

**CAN Candidate Name**

Name of candidate. States often record votes for all write-in candidates (or candidates that did not registered as write-in candidates in advance of the election) as a group. In the official results, these are also often reported as “scattered” votes. They are coded as “write-in candidates” here.

**SEAT Seat Winner**

Coded 1 for victorious candidates and 0 otherwise.

**CV1 Candidate Votes (First Round)**

Votes cast for the candidate indicated by the CAN variable.

Most states elect senators by the single-member plurality method, so there is only one round. Georgia and Louisiana hold a runoff between the top two candidates if no candidate receives a majority. Since 2012, California and Washington State have utilized a two-round system. The first round effectively replaced the party primary and is open to all candidates, including multiple candidates with the same party affiliation, with the top two candidates moving on to the general election even if one obtains a majority in the first round. The second round candidates may be members of the same party.

**VV1 Valid Votes (First Round)**

Sum of all votes cast for candidates that are not blank or invalid.

**IVV1 Spoilt/Invalid Votes (First Round)**

The total number of blank, invalid or spoilt votes in a constituency. In this file, this figure was calculated by subtracting VV1 from VOT1.

**VOT1 Votes Cast (First Round)**

Total ballots cast. This variable equals the sum of VV1 and IVV1.

**PEV1 Number of Eligible Voters (First Round)**

The number of people eligible to cast ballots (i.e. registered voters).

**YR2 Election Year (Second Round)**

Most states elect senators by the single-member plurality method, so there is only one round. Georgia and Louisiana hold a runoff between the top two candidates if no candidate receives a majority. Since 2012, California and Washington State have utilized a two-round system. The first round effectively replaced the party primary and is open to all candidates, including multiple candidates with the same party affiliation, with the top two candidates moving on to the general election even if one obtains a majority in the first round. The second round candidates may be members of the same party.

**MN2 Election Month (Second Round)**

**CV2 Candidate Votes (Second Round)**

Votes cast for the candidate indicated by the CAN variable.

**VV1 Valid Votes (Second Round)**

Sum of all votes cast for candidates that are not blank or invalid.

**IVV1 Spoilt/Invalid Votes (Second Round)**

The total number of blank, invalid or spoilt votes in a constituency. In this file, this figure was calculated by subtracting VV2 from VOT2.

**VOT2 Votes Cast (Second Round)**

Total ballots cast. This variable should equal the sum of VV2 and IVV2.

**PEV2 Number of Eligible Voters (Second Round)**

The number of people eligible to cast ballots (i.e. registered voters).

Sources: Michael J. Dubin, *United States Congressional Elections, 1788-1997: The Official Results of the Elections for the 1st through 105th Congresses* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland 1998); (Federal Election Commission, <http://www.fec.gov/>; Alabama Secretary of State, <http://www.alabamavotes.gov/>; Alaska Division of Elections, <http://www.elections.alaska.gov/>; Arizona Secretary of State, <https://www.azsos.gov/>; Arkansas Secretary of State, <http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/>; California Secretary of State, <http://www.sos.ca.gov/>; Colorado Secretary of State, <https://www.sos.state.co.us>; Connecticut Secretary of State, <http://www.ct.gov/sots/>; Delaware State Election Commissioner, Office of Elections, <http://elections.delaware.gov/>; Division of Elections, Florida Department of State, <https://results.elections.myflorida.com/>; Georgia Secretary of State, <http://sos.ga.gov/>; Hawaii Office of Elections, <http://elections.hawaii.gov/>; Idaho Secretary of State, <http://www.sos.idaho.gov/>; Illinois State Board of Elections, <https://www.elections.il.gov/>; Indiana Secretary of State, <https://www.in.gov/sos/>; Iowa Secretary of State, <https://sos.iowa.gov/>; Kansas Secretary of State, <http://www.kssos.org/>; Kentucky State Board of Elections, <http://elect.ky.gov/>; Louisiana Secretary of State, <http://www.sos.la.gov/>; Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions, Maine Secretary of State, <http://www.state.me.us/sos/>; Maryland State Board of Elections, <http://www.elections.maryland.gov/>; Elections Division, Secretary of the Commonwealth, <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/>; Michigan Secretary of State, <http://www.michigan.gov/sos/>; Minnesota Secretary of State, <http://electionresults.sos.state.mn.us/>; Mississippi Secretary of State, <http://www.sos.ms.gov/>; Missouri Secretary of State, <http://www.sos.mo.gov/>; Montana Secretary of State, <https://sos.mt.gov/>; Nevada Secretary of State, <http://nvsos.gov/sos/>; New Hampshire Secretary of State, <http://sos.nh.gov/>; New Jersey Department of State, <http://www.nj.gov/state/>; New Mexico Secretary of State, <http://www.sos.state.nm.us/>; New York State Board of Elections, <https://www.elections.ny.gov/>; North Carolina State Board of Elections, <https://www.ncsbe.gov/>; Ohio Secretary of State, <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/>; Oklahoma State Board of Elections, <https://www.ok.gov/elections/>; Oregon Secretary of State, <http://sos.oregon.gov/>; Pennsylvania Department of State, <http://www.electionreturns.pa.gov/>; South Dakota Secretary of State, <https://sdsos.gov/>; Tennessee Secretary of State, <http://sos.tn.gov/>; Texas Secretary of State, <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/>; Utah Lieutenant Governor, <https://elections.utah.gov/>; Vermont Secretary of State, <https://www.sec.state.vt.us/>; Virginia Department of Elections, <http://www.elections.virginia.gov/>; State of Washington Secretary of State, <https://www.sos.wa.gov/>; West Virginia Secretary of State, <http://www.sos.wv.gov/>; Wisconsin Elections Commission, <http://elections.wi.gov/>; Wyoming Secretary of State, <http://soswy.state.wy.us/>.